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ABSTRACT

This report is a summary of research already completed which concerns emigration, education, and social change among Eastern and Southern Europeans in their homelands and in the United States from 1890 to 1940. (Author/EK)

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EMIGRATION, EDUCATION, AND SOCIAL CHANGE AMONG EASTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPEANS IN THEIR HOMELANDS AND IN THE UNITED STATES, 1890-1940

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3. Summary of Research Already Done Under Contract No. OEC-3-7-061371-0423.

Six successive quarterly reports, the first one dated December 22, 1966, have kept the coordinator of the University of Minnesota project, Mr. George Carnett, fully informed of operations. A summary of these quarterly reports follows.

During the months between January 1 and September 30, 1966, before the contract for the execution of the project was actually signed, the Director, aided by the Curator of the Immigrant Archives at the University of Minnesota and several of the faculty advisors, initiated and carried forward phases of the work intended to be supported by local funds. These included substantial progress in the organization of materials in the Immigrant Archives, especially those of the Ukrainian collection; completion of specifications for a program of microfilming immigrant newspapers which met Library of Congress standards; a visit by the Director (at University expense) to Yugoslavia, Slovakia, and Hungary, where arrangements were made or implemented for extensive microfilming of Ruthenian newspapers published in northern Hungary at the turn of the century and of manuscript resources dealing with emigrants to the United States in the National University Library at Zagreb, the Archives of the Hungarian Reformed Church in Budapest, the Archives of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Hungary for the years 1897-1917.

On his return, and during the fall of 1966, the Director surveyed closely source materials available for the study of the Hungarian communities in Cleveland, and initiated an extensive correspondence with persons possessing materials helpful to the project in the United States and in Europe. As a fruit of this correspondence, formal permissions and clearances came for members of the research team to use the state archives in Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

The winter quarter, January 1 to March 31, 1967, was given to recruitment of five research specialists to serve part-time in the project, one as a post-doctoral scholar, and the others as a part of their doctoral preparation. Each of the seven members was skilled in at least two of the Central European languages, and all held master's

degrees. One came from the Minnesota graduate school, one from Columbia University, two from Indiana University, and one from the University of Ottawa.

During the spring quarter of 1967, the Director continued negotiations for the acquisition by the University of Minnesota of the archives of the Russian Orthodox Church, the Federation of Russian Orthodox Clubs, the First Catholic Slovak Union, the Union and League of Romanian Societies of America, and the two major national organizations serving the Ruthenes or Rusins, who in the United States identify themselves in one of three ethnic groups, Ukrainians, Carpatho-Russians, or Russians. He also prepared and distributed to the researchers and faculty advisors an extensive paper entitled "Who Are the Carpatho-Russians?" Mr. Rudolph Susel, who was employed to work with Slovenes, came to Minneapolis from Indiana University in May and read extensively in Slovene materials before departing at his own expense for an initial research trip to Slovenia, designed in part to perfect his mastery of the spoken language. The first of several joint seminars and consultations took place also in this period, involving Professor John Higham of the University of Michigan, and Professor Josef Miaso, of the Institute for Pedogogy of the Polish Academy of Science. Most important to the intellectual stimulation of the group, two scholars associated with the project under a supplementary grant provided by the Fund for the Advancement of Education, Mr. Josef Barton and Mr. John Briggs, each began virtual full-time work during this period. They have since contributed a steady stream of reports and suggestions clarifying both the methodological and the conceptual problems of the study.

Unfortunately, however, during this same quarter, it became apparent that serious problems had developed in the administrative plans made for the Immigrant Archives by the officers of the University Library. The Director made a full report of these problems to the project coordinator, Mr. Carnett. They were to occupy the attention of the central University administration for many succeeding months, with only limited results.

In the months from July through September, 1967, the Director continued his own reading in English, German, and French sources. He also prepared office and study arrangements for the research specialists, who arrived on campus during September, and conducted the first of several orientation consultations with them.

Between October 1 and December 31, 1967, the research specialists plunged into the reading of materials at the Immigrant Archives. By their enthusiasm, tact, and persistence, they overcame most of the difficulties arising from delays and confusion in the organization of that collection, but the delay in microfilming newspapers proved a real handicap. Members of the team devised a workable method of isolating particular clusters of villages in the Old World from which emigrants came to Cleveland, Pittsburgh, and Minneapolis. In widespread reading of newspapers and manuscript source materials they discovered many indications of a strong commitment of immigrants to making education the means of success for themselves and their children, as well as a device to promote family, congregational, and ethnic solidarity. Also during this quarter, Professor Smith prepared and presented to a conference of educational historians at the Ontario Institute for Education an extensive paper entitled "Emigrant Aspirations and American Education, 1880-1930." The paper was presented to the U. S. Office of Education as a formal summary of the insights which the first full year of the project had yielded, before the various research specialists had gotten deeply into their individual work. It was written to be revised, and some passages were obsolete by the time of its completion, of course. But it gave the research specialists not only a benchmark to work from, but a target at which to shoot.

All members of the team continued their analysis of source materials during the first three months of 1968. In several field trips to Cleveland, various members of the research group made important progress in isolating Slovak, Ukrainian, Hungarian, and Polish records revealing the educational interests and activities of churches, lodges, and families there. Since similar work was proceeding

in Minneapolis and St. Paul, the decision was made to eliminate close study of Pittsburg and concentrate upon the two American cities where records were extensive and available.

Rudolph Susel and Professor Smith spent most of this quarter in Europe. Together, they briefly surveyed and ordered microfilms of important and very substantial collections of materials in the Austrian State Archives which students of American emigration have hitherto overlooked. And they secured the official cooperation of the director of the Institute for Ethnography in Ljubljana, Professor Boris Cŭhar, who with a team of his associates has in recent years studied closely the effect of emigration upon a cluster of Slovenian villages at the turn of the century. Professor Smith made initial contacts with officials at the Polish Academy of Science and the Jagellonian University in Krakow, and, in two conferences arranged by the Historical Institute of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, developed final plans for an extensive collaboration between scholars from that institution and members of the research team during the summer of 1968. Mr. Susel's field research in the villages of the Zuzemberk region, southeast of Ljubljana, from whence most of the early Slovene settlers in Cleveland originated, yielded parish chronicles, school records, and other materials which shed light upon some of the questions we were asking. But his research in Ljubljana raised doubts as to whether the urbanization of villagers in the Old World could be successfully studied in Slovenia, whose population was socially homogeneous, as seemed to be possible in Eastern Slovakia, where the population was heterogeneous.

By the end of May, 1968, the group had made substantial progress in refining the methods by which they were able to use the records of churches, lodges, and other voluntary associations in the New World to trace the members back to their original villages in the Old World, and thus locate precisely the clusters of nearby villages from which most of a specific group had come. The result was that the researchers were able to depart for Europe in June with detailed advance plans, and in many cases with specific authorization from public and ecclesiastical officials to use the rec rds of these villages, whether they were

in local or regional archives. Moreover, with the first steps already taken in the coding of information for statistical tabulation, they were able, in some cases, at least, to link together in a chain of analysis information about individual groups of families dating from their departure from the Old World to the success of their children in graduation from the public high schools of the New.

Meanwhile, the long and leisurely conversations which members of the group shared each week during the academic year of 1967 and 1968 enabled them to clarify a number of conceptual problems vitally related to the success of the project. Foremost among these was the fact of the intricate variations in the patterns by which each ethno-religious group experienced and assimilated urban culture in the United States. Second, immense contrasts appeared in the degree of group cohesiveness in the process of migration. Slovak Calvinists in Cleveland and Slovak Lutherans in Minneapolis preserved in their new congregations tight-knit associations resting upon common village origins in the Old Country. Italian Catholics and Greek Catholics of the Byzantine rite (Ukrainians, Romanians, Carpatho-Russians) showed much less transfer of Old World associations to the New. Third, the role of returned emigrants in awakening educational commitments in the cities of the Old World varied greatly from place to place. Mr. Susel turned up little in his extensive sampling of newspaper and other sources in Slovenia, but Slovak scholars helped Mr. Stolarik and Miss Dragan find bountiful evidence of it there. Fourth, the history of Hungarian Jews in Cleveland and in Minneapolis shows a development which, both ethnically and educationally, was remarkably different from that of other Jews in America. We now hope that as a by-product of our studies in East Slovakia we will be able to analyze differences in their European backgrounds from that of other Jews as well. Fifth, and finally, the pragmatic aim of our study, to shed light upon how educational strategists can more successfully link the efforts of public schools with those of families and private groups in bringing about a commitment to personal progress through learning, seemed to all of us daily more urgent than before, and one upon which our various studies were going to

shed much light.

The research in Europe during the summer was carried out efficiently, chiefly through the cooperation of scholars with whom contacts had previously been made. Mr. Galush and Miss Dragan analyzed materials in the public archives and the university library at Krakow, and Miss Dragon proceeded in August to Eastern Slovakia, where she and Mr. Paul Magocsi had full access to published and unpublished source materials pertaining to the Greek Catholic (Slovak and Carpatho-Russian) population of th t section of the country. Mr. Stolarik, after initial study in the state archives in Bratislava and the archives of the Slovak Matica in Martin, Slovakia, also proceeded to Eastern Slovakia. His research in the records of villages from whence Slovak Calvinists came to the United States offered particularly interesting comparisons with those which sent Slovak Roman Catholics in large numbers. Professor Smith, with the aid of translators who used both Slovak and Magyar, concentrated upon Jewish and Slovak Lutheran groups, many of whose materials were in German. Mr. Susel extended his study in village and regional archives in Slovenia, and especially in school records and publications there. Meanwhile, exchanges of correspondence and consultations with Mr. Briggs and Mr. Barton, who were in Italy and Romania during the same months under their related grant from the Fund for the Advancement of Education, helped quicken perception of the great variety of patterns by which education and urbanization were interwoven. All these persons gathered in Budapest early in September, both to make intensive cross checks of materials in archives and libraries there, and to confer with Professor Josef Kovacs, who had been in Minneapolis during the previous winter under a Ford Foundation Grant, and who will continue research and translation work in Budapest during the remainder of the life of the project. As a by-product of all this work in Europe, of course, previously unknown bodies of source material came to light, which were in some cases ordered for micro-filming immediately for study in Minneapolis and Baltimore during the period from October, 1968, through June, 1969.

In the months since October, 1968, the project director and the several research associates have been deeply engaged in analyzing information to be found in the microfilms of manuscripts and publications gathered in Europe, as well as in extended studies of the parochial and public school records and of the publications of immigrant groups in the cities of Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Minneapolis. Two of these have been working under the extension of this contract at the University of Minnesota, while others have been engaged under the new project 9-0091, being carried on from Johns Hopkins University. The two persons at work at the University of Minnesota, Mr. Mark Stolarik and Mr William Galush, have both prepared long and detailed summaries of their findings, with careful reference to the questions which are spelled out in the contract, and these extended reports are a part of the information upon which the director is currently drawing in preparation of the final report for project 9-0091.